



Sharing Geospatial Information: GEOINT Symposium 2011

Posted by Kshemendra Paul, ISE Program Manager on Friday, October 21, 2011

I just returned from San Antonio and the GEOINT Symposium (hosted by the [United States Geospatial Intelligence Foundation](#) ^[1]), and it was a great event all around. The theme this year was Intelligence Integration, and many speakers acknowledged that integration starts with information sharing.

I'm energized by the passion and focus of the geospatial intelligence (GEOINT) community and how they embrace information sharing and safeguarding. The community is very motivated by those on the front lines, including end users who deal with disaster preparedness, combat operations, law enforcement, and humanitarian crises. I look forward to a long partnership and their active participation in the information sharing environment.

The following are a few key topics from the conference that I'd like to highlight:

Standards

Director of National Intelligence Clapper spoke of the impending austere budget environment, and pointed to IT as a place for potential efficiencies and savings. A key concept in this will be standards. Standards enable systems and programs to scale more effectively across departments, but even more so across organizations and communities. That's where we find real efficiencies. Industry has an important role in helping to develop voluntary, consensus-based standards that meet the needs of both the buyers and sellers and enable us to accelerate the development of the information sharing environment. For more about standards, check out Dr. David Bray's recent blog post about our upcoming [Workshop for Info Sharing & Safeguarding Standards](#) ^[2], or WIS3.

Stewardship

Director Long of the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA) highlighted the importance of geo-tagging metadata. Tagging metadata enables reuse, allows for greater automation, and shows the history of information. Information is a national asset, and properly tagging it allows for the stewards of that information to share when appropriate or protect when needed. Tagging is only one piece of data stewardship, but an important piece.

Safeguarding

The GEOINT community, like all those who deal with sensitive information, is concerned with the security of their networks and systems. The Commander of Cyber Command, Gen Alexander, USAF, spoke of the serious threats to our nation and the need to be innovative and active in our defenses against cyber intrusion. Several others commented on [Executive Order 13587](#) ^[3], which emphasizes the critical connection between information sharing and safeguarding. These are issues we must and will get right.

I'm excited about the momentum of the GEOINT community and encourage greater cooperation and collaboration with non-traditional partners that can benefit from the tremendous information sharing and

safeguarding activities occurring in the field and within communities.

Related Blog Posts:

[Save the date! Dec 5 is the Workshop for Information Sharing & Safeguarding Standards \(WIS3\)](#) [2]

[NIEM National Training Event: Our read out from a great week for standards and info sharing](#) [4]

[Boston's New Advanced Cyber Security Center Launches](#) [5]

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Links:

[1] <http://www.gotgeoint.com/>

[2] <http://ise.gov/blog/david-bray/save-date-dec-5-workshop-information-sharing-safeguarding-standards-wis3>

[3] <http://ise.gov/news/president-issues-executive-order-responsible-information-sharing>

[4] <http://ise.gov/blog/ise-bloggers/niem-national-training-event-our-read-out-great-week-standards-and-info-sharing>

[5] <http://ise.gov/blog/timothy-h-edgar/bostons-new-advanced-cyber-security-center-launches>

[6] <http://ise.gov/category/free-tags/info-sharing>

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